

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A highlighter for electronic text displayed via video memory storing display

2 data, comprising:

4 an overlay generator, said overlay generator providing partial overlay
data for use in conjunction with the display data, said partial overlay data
serving to make partially opaque a first portion of display data when the display
data is displayed, said partial overlay data generally maintaining legibility of the
display data, said partial overlay data indicating a second portion of the display
data that is not made partially opaque by said partial overlay data; whereby

6 said second clear portion is made more prominent by contrast with said
first, more opaque portion to more easily direct a viewer's eye to said second
clear portion.

2. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said first

2 portion made opaque lies on opposite sides of said second portion.

3. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay

2 generator is a software application affecting the display data.

4. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay

2 generator further comprises:

at least one adjustment available to a viewer of the display data.

5. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said

2 adjustment is selected from the group consisting of:

4 a width adjustment;

6 an opacity adjustment;

a position adjustment; and

6 a color adjustment.

6. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 5, further comprising:

2 said width adjustment adjusting a width of said second clear portion;

4 said opacity adjustment adjusting a degree of opacity of said first opaque
portion;

6 said position adjustment adjusting a position of said second clear portion;

said color adjustment adjusting a color of said first opaque portion.

7. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay

2 generator enables scrolling of the display data beneath said first and second overlay
portions to highlight other portions of a document associated with the display data.

8. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay

2 generator enables movement of said second clear portion associate with movement of a

cursor.

9. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay generator enables transposition of said second clear portion with said first opaque portion and said first opaque portion with said second clear portion.

10. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said overlay generator further comprises:

a bookmark utility, said bookmark utility including a bookmark database, said bookmark database having an entry indicating a point of interest in a document for display in conjunction with said overlay generator.

11. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said bookmark utility further comprises:

a bookmark control utility, said bookmark control utility having operations selected from the group consisting of bookmark creation, retrieval, editing and deletion utilities.

12. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 11, wherein said bookmark creation utility further comprises:

said bookmark creation utility creates a first bookmark for entry into said bookmark database by indicating a portion of a displayed document and entering

information associated with said highlighted portion of said displayed document
6 into said bookmark database.

13. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 11, wherein said
2 bookmark retrieval utility further comprises:

4 said bookmark retrieval utility retrieving a second bookmark from said
bookmark database, retrieves and opens a document associated with said second
bookmark, and positions said second bookmark for display in said second clear
portion of the display data.

14. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said
2 bookmark retrieval utility further comprises:

4 said bookmark retrieval utility indicating a portion of said opened
document originally indicated when said second bookmark was created.

15. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said
2 bookmark retrieval utility further comprises:

4 a list of bookmarks present in said bookmark database; and
indicated text associated with a particular one of said bookmarks in said
list.

16. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said

2 bookmark retrieval utility further comprises:

4 said indicated text displayed when said particular one bookmark is
indicated for possible selection.

17. A highlighter for electronic text displayed via video memory storing display
2 data, comprising:

4 an overlay generator, said overlay generator being a software application
affecting the display data, said overlay generator providing partial overlay data
for use in conjunction with the display data, said partial overlay data serving to
make partially opaque a first portion of display data when the display data is
displayed, said partial overlay data generally maintaining legibility of the display
data, said partial overlay data indicating a second portion of the display data that
is not made partially opaque by said partial overlay data;

10 said first portion made opaque generally lying on opposite sides of said
second portion;

12 said overlay generator having at least one adjustment available to a
viewer of the display data selected from the group consisting of:

14 a width adjustment;

16 an opacity adjustment;

a position adjustment; and

18 a color adjustment;

said overlay generator enabling scrolling of the display data beneath said

first and second overlay portions to highlight other portions of a document
20 associated with the display data;

said overlay generator enabling movement of said second clear portion
22 associate with movement of a cursor;

said overlay generator enabling transposition of said second clear portion
24 with said first opaque portion and said first opaque portion with said second
clear portion;

26 said overlay generator having a bookmark utility, said bookmark utility
including a bookmark database, said bookmark database having an entry
28 indicating a point of interest in a document for display in conjunction with said
overlay generator;

30 said bookmark utility having a bookmark control utility, said bookmark
control utility having bookmark creation, retrieval, editing and deletion utilities;

32 said bookmark creation utility creating a first bookmark for entry into
said bookmark database by indicating a portion of a displayed document and
34 entering information associated with said highlighted portion of said displayed
document into said bookmark database;

36 said bookmark retrieval utility retrieving a second bookmark from said
bookmark database, retrieves and opens a document associated with said second
bookmark, and positions said second bookmark for display in said second clear
38 portion of the display data, said bookmark retrieval utility indicating a portion of
said opened document originally indicated when said second bookmark was
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created; and

42 said bookmark retrieval utility including a list of bookmarks present in
said bookmark database and indicated text associated with a particular one of
44 said bookmarks in said list, said indicated text displayed when said particular
one bookmark is indicated for possible selection; whereby

46 said second clear portion is made more prominent by contrast with said
first, more opaque portion to more easily direct a viewer's eye to said second
48 clear portion.

18. The highlighter for electronic text as set forth in Claim 17, further comprising:

2 said width adjustment adjusting a width of said second clear portion;
said opacity adjustment adjusting a degree of opacity of said first opaque
4 portion;

6 said position adjustment adjusting a position of said second clear portion;
said color adjustment adjusting a color of said first opaque portion.

19. A method for enhancing a video display for viewing, the steps comprising:

2 making opaque a first portion of a video display, said video display
presenting information displayed for viewing;
4 generally maintaining legibility of displayed information subject to said
first portion of said video display made opaque; and
6 providing a second portion of said video display free from opacity, said

second portion of said video display being clear; whereby

8 said second clear portion of said video display is made more prominent

in contrast to said first portion, to more easily direct a viewer's eye to said

10 second clear portion.

20. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 wherein said first portion made opaque lies on opposite sides of said second portion.

21. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

the steps further comprising:

providing an overlay generator, said overlay generator providing a partial overlay signal for use in conjunction with said video display, said partial overlay signal serving to make partially opaque said first portion of said video display, said partial overlay signal indicating said second portion of said video display that is free from opacity made by said partial overlay signal.

22. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 21,

2 wherein said partial overlay signal further comprises:

partial overlay data used in conjunction with display data, said display

4 data transmitted as said video display.

23. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 21,

2 wherein said overlay generator is a software application affecting said video display.

24. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 the steps further comprising:

4 providing at least one adjustment available to a viewer of said video display.

25. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 24,

wherein said adjustment is selected from the group consisting of:

- a width adjustment;
- an opacity adjustment;
- a position adjustment; and
- a color adjustment.

26. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 25,

2 further comprising:

- 4 said width adjustment adjusting a width of said second clear portion;
- 6 said opacity adjustment adjusting a degree of opacity of said first opaque portion;
- 8 said position adjustment adjusting a position of said second clear portion;
- and
- said color adjustment adjusting a color of said first opaque portion.

27. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 further comprising:

4 scrolling said information presented for viewing beneath said first and
second overlay portions to highlight other portions of a document associated
with said presented information.

28. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 further comprising:

4 moving said second clear portion in association with movement of a
cursor.

29. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 further comprising:

4 transposing said second clear portion with said first opaque portion and
said first opaque portion with said second clear portion.

30. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 19,

2 further comprising:

4 providing a bookmark utility, said bookmark utility including a
bookmark database, said bookmark database holding an entry, said entry
indicating a point of interest in a document for display as presented information
6 displayed for viewing.

31. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 30,

2 said bookmark utility further comprising:

a bookmark control utility, said bookmark control utility having

4 bookmark creation, retrieval, editing and deletion utilities;

said bookmark creation utility creating a first bookmark for entry into

6 said bookmark database by indicating a portion of a displayed document and

entering information associated with said highlighted portion of said displayed

8 document into said bookmark database;

said bookmark retrieval utility retrieving a second bookmark from said

10 bookmark database, retrieves and opens a document associated with said second

12 bookmark, and positions said second bookmark for display in said second clear

portion of said display data, said bookmark retrieval utility indicating a portion

14 of said opened document originally indicated when said second bookmark was

created;

said bookmark retrieval utility including a list of bookmarks present in

16 said bookmark database and indicated text associated with a particular one of

18 said bookmarks in said list, said indicated text displayed when said particular

one bookmark is indicated for possible selection.

32. A method for enhancing a video display for viewing, the steps comprising:

2 providing an overlay generator in the form of a software application, for

use in conjunction with a video display, said video display presenting

4 information displayed for viewing;

6 said overlay generator providing a partial overlay signal for use in
conjunction with said video display, said partial overlay signal making opaque a
8 first portion of said video display while generally maintaining legibility of said
displayed information subject to said first portion of said video display made
10 opaque, said partial overlay signal providing a second portion of said video
display free from opacity, said second portion of said video display being clear
and generally free from opacity, said partial overlay signal including partial
12 overlay data used in conjunction with display data transmitted as said video
display;

14 said first portion made opaque lying on opposite sides of said second
portion;

16 providing at least one adjustment available to a viewer of said video
display said adjustment is selected from the group consisting of:

18 a width adjustment;

20 an opacity adjustment;

22 a position adjustment; and

24 a color adjustment;

26 scrolling said information presented for viewing beneath said first and
second overlay portions to highlight other portions of a document associated
28 with said presented information;

29 moving said second clear portion in association with movement of a

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cursor;

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transposing said second clear portion with said first opaque portion and
said first opaque portion with said second clear portion; and

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providing a bookmark utility, said bookmark utility including a
bookmark database, said bookmark database holding an entry, said entry
indicating a point of interest in a document for display as presented information
displayed for viewing, said bookmark utility including a bookmark control
utility, said bookmark control utility having bookmark creation, retrieval,
editing and deletion utilities, said bookmark creation utility creating a first
bookmark for entry into said bookmark database by indicating a portion of a
displayed document and entering information associated with said highlighted
portion of said displayed document into said bookmark database, said bookmark
retrieval utility retrieving a second bookmark from said bookmark database,
retrieves and opens a document associated with said second bookmark, and
positions said second bookmark for display in said second clear portion of said
display data, said bookmark retrieval utility indicating a portion of said opened
document originally indicated when said second bookmark was created, said
bookmark retrieval utility including a list of bookmarks present in said
bookmark database and indicated text associated with a particular one of said
bookmarks in said list, said indicated text displayed when said particular one
bookmark is indicated for possible selection; whereby

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48 in contrast to said first portion, to more easily direct a viewer's eye to said
second clear portion.

33. The method for enhancing a video display for viewing as set forth in Claim 32,
2 further comprising:

4 said width adjustment adjusting a width of said second clear portion;

6 said opacity adjustment adjusting a degree of opacity of said first opaque
portion;

8 said position adjustment adjusting a position of said second clear portion;

and

10 said color adjustment adjusting a color of said first opaque portion.